

# ON THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDIVIDUALS WITH DIS- ABILITIES

## HON. KATHERINE HARRIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 26, 2005*

Ms. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 15th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which we observe this week. This landmark piece of legislation continues to make a daily difference in the lives of the American people—not only in the lives of those with disabilities, but in all of our lives.

The Americans with Disabilities Act laid the groundwork to direct our nation toward equal opportunity for all. Today, the National Council on Disability, working with their federal partners, keeps up the hard work of striving to meet this vital goal. I am proud to have one of my Florida constituents serving as an appointee to the United States Access Board, which helps ensure accessibility in the design of Federal facilities. I applaud her commitment and dedication.

As Florida Secretary of State, I was fortunate to have the opportunity to apply the mission of the ADA to the cause of election reform. In Florida, we worked to remove the obstacles that were preventing individuals with disabilities from participating fully in the political process. With this legislation, Florida became the first state in the Nation to enact a law to secure the voting rights of individuals with disabilities.

We have fought hard to live up to the promise of our founding and to honor the dignity of every individual, and to extend the rights, privileges and opportunities of that promise to all our citizens. The Americans with Disabilities Act was part of a long line of landmark achievements that have expanded freedom and opportunity in the United States. Let us continue working toward the goals of this law—to remove the obstacles that prevent persons with disabilities from enjoying the full rights that too many Americans take for granted.

## TRIBUTE TO LANCE ARMSTRONG

## HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 26, 2005*

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, Lance Armstrong won an unprecedented seventh Tour de France race over the weekend. His life, both on and off the race track, is a great example of hard work and perseverance. Albert Carey Caswell, a U.S. Capitol Tour Guide, who is also a prolific poet, wrote the following poem in tribute to Lance Armstrong and his accomplishments. I believe that reading this poem will provide encouragement and inspiration to my colleagues as we consider Mr. Armstrong's great accomplishments.

A REAL FINE TOUR DE FORCE OF LIFE

WITH HEART AND SOUL, BODY AND MIND . . .

AND LEGS AND ARMSTRONG

This force, this presence . . . which guides us  
along life's path and roads . . .

Directing us from deep down within . . . this  
burning force, which lasts in life we  
follow as we go.

As emanating, from so very deep within our  
very souls, this voice . . . of this our  
chosen goal, of this our life's Tour De  
Force of Life as shows!

While, riding along life's roads,  
As there upon our paths as rode, embarking  
on this journey we call life . . . as ever  
onward we go . . .

To win the race of life, we all must follow a  
code of courage and sacrifice . . . until,  
approaching our final nights, upon this  
our earth as rode.

For in the game of life, there is but one  
thing which makes us bright . . . of  
which makes us all contenders.

Just one difference between winning and los-  
ing . . . for it's "The Heart" from  
which all great things are so rendered!

For True Champions come in all shapes and  
sizes . . . but, it's what's found within  
their hearts as where lies their true  
and golden splendor . . .

While, traveling through life's country sides,  
As over her mountain tops we climb, as  
along life's rivers which we wind . . . as  
by her we glide . . .

In this our most valiant of quests, To Be The  
Best . . . as before us so lies the answer  
so . . . Of this great test, within our  
hearts inside . . .

Do we get up when we fall down?

While, upon each new stage in this race  
called life . . . do our hearts burn  
bright in our souls as found?

For in this our greatest of quests, To Be The  
Best . . . will we one day because of  
these our precious gifts, perhaps be so  
Heaven bound?

In Life . . . to go for the Gold!

To cheat death, to reach down inside of your-  
self as your soul stretch . . . until,  
none is left, oh, so very bold!

To be a true Champion, To be The Best, to  
rewrite history and the records books  
while upon our life's valiant quest . . .  
as Lance so-Gold.

A True Great Champion . . . among just  
mere men.

A winner, a man of courage . . . of passion  
. . . of fury and heart . . . from the  
start . . . to the middle . . . until, the  
very end!

A man who knows but only one creed . . .  
who knows no bounds . . . to push the  
envelope as he is found . . . as his quest  
for victory never so ends!

A Real Fine Tour De Force of Life . . . A  
Real Tour De France . . . as is this  
Tour De Lance!

A True Terminator, among his fellow ath-  
letes as a most historic creator . . . as  
ever onward he'll advance . . .

For there is no mountain too steep for him to  
climb, no cure too sharp for him to  
ride in time . . . with but one thing on  
his mind, that Golden Chance!

With Heart and Soul . . . Body and Mind . . .  
and Legs and Armstrong!

As this great American Hero, has shown to  
this our world . . . why, with his char-  
acter he so belongs . . .

For in Sir Lancelot, we see this Valiant  
Knight of Courage's Quest . . . reach-  
ing deep down into our souls, as with  
his tests . . . his sweet life's song!

While, there looking into the very face of  
death!

Pedaling uphill, how Lance achieved the ulti-  
mate victory . . . while "cheating  
death" . . . in his most valiant of all  
quests . . .

But not to lull, but to move ever forward  
somehow . . . on so courageously now  
. . . while, to this our world he's shown  
his very best!

And, as Lance rides onward into history. . .  
My child, I bid you to learn and see . . . and  
glean from his life lessons, all about  
what's within a heart you need!

What it takes to wind and to succeed, about  
hope and faith, about character and  
courage and dedication within great  
hearts within you to succeed.

In traveling down the road of life,  
For in Lance, we so see A Great Fine Tour  
De Force of Life, to so carry with us in  
our hearts about God and Faith and  
Sacrifice!

A true celebration of the Heart and Soul of  
Courage and Faith . . . and it's true  
fine worth in Gold, this his A Fine  
Tour De Force of Life!

## INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION CONDEMNING THE CUBAN RE- GIME'S MOST RECENT MEAS- URES OF EXTREME REPRESSION AGAINST MEMBERS OF CUBA'S PRO-DEMOCRACY MOVEMENT

## HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 26, 2005*

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution condemning the Cuban dictatorship's most recent measures of extreme repression against Cuba's pro-democracy movement.

Following Castro's condemnable, March 2003, crackdown against peaceful pro-democracy activists, the European Union correctly took measures against the Cuban regime. However, in January 2005, the European Union suspended these measures and resumed its policy of so-called "engagement" with the terrorist regime in Havana. This policy of appeasement includes inviting regime officials to diplomatic events and shamelessly disinviting Cuba's brave pro-democracy activists. Unfortunately, on July 14, 2005, the Government of France invited the dictatorship's Foreign Minister to the French Embassy in Havana for a Bastille Day celebration. And, the Government of France did not invite the heroic members of the democratic opposition to the same celebration.

To protest this cowardly policy, members of the pro-democracy opposition in Cuba sought, on July 22, to demonstrate in front of the French Embassy in a peaceful and orderly manner for the liberation of all Cuban political prisoners, and to denounce the current policy of the European Union.

In a viscous display of gangster-style repression, the Cuban regime mobilized its repugnant state security apparatus to try to intimidate and harass the peaceful demonstrators. Members of the Assembly to Promote Civil Society in Cuba, who were planning a peaceful demonstration in front of the French Embassy in Havana on the morning of Friday, July 22, were the victims of hate acts ("acts of repudiation"), their homes were ransacked, and at least 20 of them were arrested. Among those arrested were the leaders of the Cuban opposition Martha Beatriz Roque, Félix Bonne Carcassés and Rene Gómez Manzano. Mr. Gómez Manzano and other opposition members remain in prison as I speak.

This is one more example of the brutality of a dictatorship that does not allow freedom of